

NOTES FROM JERUSALEM.

WE are quite out of the world here, even the letters being cholera-bound, and when this will reach you I have no very clear notion ; but I thought it better to take the chance of getting a report to you of my doings. Dr. Merrill and Mr. Schick have been very kind, and given up much time to me, and Mr. Moore has rendered great service by securing for me a visit to the Hauran area without being limited as to time or any particular place.

1st. I wanted to secure an accurate account of the newly discovered piece of wall near here. I will mark out the exact position on your map. Meanwhile, I send a memorandum which I drew out and read over to Dr. Merrill, who quite approves of it. I think it is clear.

2nd. I have seen Mr. Schick, and marked out for him the precise places in which Sir C. Wilson and Mr. Birch wish to have excavations made.

Mr. Schick thinks that he may be able to get the fellahin to do this, and will try. But this is Easter, when no one is working, so he will have to wait a little. Mr. Schick has also undertaken to trace further, if he can, the course of the newly discovered branch of the aqueduct at the suggestion of Sir Charles Wilson.

3rd. Russian excavations east of Holy Sepulchre. Of these I have made sketches with dimensions. I cannot explain them without.

4th. I have made a sketch plan of the very curious underground church to which Sir C. Wilson alluded.

5th. I have been able to examine carefully the Sakhrâh and Aksa twice. I had made abstracts of all the chief points of dissension, and ranged them in columns so that I had everything clear, and Mr. Schick went with me and gave me some valuable information as to newly found details.

6th. The remains of St. Stephen's Church are well preserved, but the figures of saints have almost faded away.

Near the church some extensive excavations have laid open some fine Mosaic pavements, showing that a large Roman mansion had been there. I will get drawings if I can, but I doubt having the time.

The environs are being rapidly built upon, and many beautiful points of interest are being spoilt by ugly houses ; but the building has had one curious result, viz., to clear away the great heaps of rubbish near the Damascus Gate. These are rapidly being removed and laying the walls bare.

In respect of the masonry of this gate I noticed a curious fact which has no doubt been previously remarked, viz., that several courses of the flank wall east of the gate which appear at first sight to be formed of the same small stones as are used in the Arabic portion adjoining, are really

formed of such massive stones as were used in the old wall work, but tooled down and chiselled across with fictitious joints so as to assimilate with the Arabic.

The outside of the newly discovered wall (opposite to Frutiger's bank) was to the west, viz., next to the "open field" as shown on the ordnance map, and is now being built upon to form one wall of a new hotel.

If continued, this outside line would strike the Tower of David at about three-sevenths of its width from the west front, and, so far as can be seen, at right angles.

The wall was composed of large stones not less than 6 to 8 feet long, and about the same height as the lower courses of David's Tower, and drafted like them; and the masonry, altogether, resembled that of the Tower in every particular. The wall was partly uncovered for a length of 120 feet, and was found to be one, two, or three courses in height, the lowest being directly on the rock.

Dr. Merrill saw the wall for a thickness of only 3 or 4 feet, but Mr. Schick happened to pass when it was uncovered for its whole width. He did not measure it at the time, and it was covered up when he returned, but it was certainly 8 to 10 feet thick.

The interior face of the stones was worked smooth.

Beyond the wall, externally, was a scarp in the face of the rock which was exposed for a depth of about 15 feet.

The new east wall of the hotel was required, owing to the street being widened, to stand partly outside of the old wall.

T. HAYTER LEWIS.

Mediterranean Hotel, Jerusalem,

26th April, 1886.
